

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 7535

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PCAT VE MX

SUBJ: LATIN AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT

SUMMARY: VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID GOV INTENDS COOPERATE FULLY WITH MEXICAN ARMS RESTRAINT INITIATIVE BUT IS CONCERNED OVER "HASTE" WITH WHICH AUG 21 MEETING CALLED, FACT THAT MEXICO HAS NOT INFORMED VENEZUELA OF AGENDA OR INVITEES, AND POSSIBILITY IT COULD FRUSTRATE VENEZUELAN EFFORTS TO BRING EIGHT AYACUCHO COUNTRIES TOGETHER IN DECEMBER. HIS CONCERN INCREASED WHEN TOLD THAT CUBA HAS SAID IT WILL ATTEND MEXICAN MEETING AND THAT NEXT ROUND OF US-USSR CAT MIGHT BE HELD IN MEXICO CITY. PEREZ INSTRUCTED HIS FOREIGN MINISTER TO TALK TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL IN SANTO DOMINGO OR IN MEXICO NEXT WEEK AND TO PROPOSE TO OTHER AYACUCHO COUNTRIES THAT THEY HOLD PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS DURING AUG 21 MEETING IN MEXICO CITY. END SUMMARY.

1. CLAPP, JONES, POLCOUNS FRECHETTE AND I MET FOR AN HOUR AUG 11 WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FM CONSALVI TO DEBRIEF ON HELSINKI TALKS AND EXPLORE NEXT STEPS ON AYACHUCO. WE TOLD HIM HIS PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY THE SECRET

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JUNE 22 DECLARATION, HAD VERY MUCH AFFECTED HOW WE HAD DEALT WITH SOVIETS, AND THE ISSUE OF MULTILATERAL ARMS RESTRAINT IN GENERAL. WE HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN CLARIFYING THE ISSUES WITH THE SOVIETS AND BRINGING THEM TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING REGIONAL RESTRAINT INT IN GENERAL WE HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN CLARIFYING THE ISSUES WITH THE SOVIETS AND BRINGING THEM

TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING REGIONAL RESTRAINT INITIATIVES SUCH AS VENEZUELA'S. WE HOPE TO DRAW IN THE OTHER MAJOR SUPPLIERS AS WE GO ALONG. BUT WE'R UNLIKELY TO MOVE THE SOVIETS MUCH FURTHER UNLESS AYACUCHO COUNTRIES SHOW FORWARD MOTION BEFORE NEXT CAT ROUND IN DECEMBER.

2. BOGOTA. PEREZ SAID THAT DURING INAUGURATION OF NEW PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, HE HAD DISCUSSED HELSINKI TALKS WITH SOVIET DELEGATE KUZNETSOV, SAYING HE PERSONALLY WAS CONVINCED THAT US, SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SUPPLIERS WOULD HAVE TO AGREE ON RESTRAINT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR REGIONAL RESTRAINT TO WORK. KUZNETSOV TRIED TO FOCUS CONVERSATION ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL TO SIGNAL SOVIET DISCONTENT WITH US POSITION. KUZNETSOV SIAD US-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE DETERIORATING AND CONSEQUENTLY THE POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WAS FADING. CAP TURNED HIM BACK TO THE QUESTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT ASKING WHAT THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR THE BILATERAL US-SOVIET TALKS ON THIS ISSUE. KUZNETSOV'S ANSWER, CAP SAID, WAS CONSISTENT WITH OUR ASSESSMENT. ALTHOUGH SOLUTIONS WOULD BE DIFFICULT, KUZNETSOV SAID, THE USSR WAS INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD. CAP TOLD HIM THAT VENEZUELA AND PROBABLY THE MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WERE INTERESTED IN SEEKING REGIONAL RESTRAINT, BUT SUPPLIERS WOULD HAVE TO AGREE NOT SECRET

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TO UNDERMINE WHAT THE REGION MIGHT ACCOMPLISH. HE TOLD KUZNETSOV THAT VENEZUELA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOVIET DEBRIEFS ON THESE TALKS IN FUTURE.

3. PERZ ALSO RAISED CAT RESTRAINT WITH OTHER AYACUCHO LEADERS PRESENT IN BOGOTA. HE TOLD THEM ABOUT HIS DISCUSSION WITH KUZNETSOV AND ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF MOVING AHEAD ON AYACUCHO. ALL THESE LEADERS, HE SAID, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SUPPLIER PRESSURES TO SELL ARMS IN LATIN AMERICA AS THEY WERE ALL FACING SEVERE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, ESPECIALLY PERU, ECUADOR AND BOLIVIA. IN SUM, HE SAID, THE REACTION OF ALL THESE LEADERS TO MOVING AHEAD ON REGIONAL RESTRAINT WAS POSITIVE.

4. COPRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. PEREZ SAID THAT IF ARMS SUPPLIERS REACHED AGREEMENT, THERE WOOULD BE LESS CHANCE OF THEIR SABOTAGING ANY AGREEMENT RECIPIENTS MIGHT REACH. FOR EXAMPLE, HE IS WORRIED ABOUT REPORTS THAT BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA ARE GOING TO PRODUCE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. HIS DEFENSE MINISTER HAD JUST RECEIVED AN ARGENTINE OFFER TO SELL A NEW TYPE OF PLANE THAT ARGENTINA WILL PRODUCE. THS COULDONLY HAPPEN WITH THE HELP

OF EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS. VENEZUELA ITSELF IS BEGINNING TO PRODUCE ORDINARY RIFLE AMMUNITION AND TO REPAIR SOME OF ITS EQUIPMENT, BUT HAS NO INTENTION TO GET INTO SOPHISTICATED LEVEL. TWO THINGS WERE NEEDED: SUPPLIERS MUST AGREE NOT TO TRANSFER SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY, AND LATIN AMERICANS MUST AGREE TO LIMITS ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT PRODUCED IN THE REGION.

5. MEXICAN INITIATIVE. PEREZ RAISED ISSUE OF MEXICAN INITIATIVE AND PLANS FOR AUG 21 MEETING IN MEXICO CITY. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE MEXICAN MEETING WAS BEING HELD TOO HASTILY, WITHOUT ENOUGH PREPARATION. HOWEVER, VENEZUELA HAD NO INTEREST IN DELAYING THE MEETING AND WAS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY; THE SECRET

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MEETING COULD BE USEFUL IN FOCUSING ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE LITTLE PRACTICAL RESULT. IN GENERAL HE FELT THE MEXICAN INITIATIVE WAS UNFORTUNATE IN THAT IT COULD FRUSTRATE THE AYACUCHO INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT VENEZUELA MUST INSIST THAT THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER (ARGENTINA, CHILE, PERU ARE ALL KEY) AND PRESS TOWARD A FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING ON DEC 7TH, THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORIGINAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3381
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 7535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PCAT VE MX

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT

DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO. DURING OUR DISCUSSION, PEREZ THOUGHT OF POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A SEPARATE MEETING OF THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES DURING THE MEXICAN MEETING TO PREPARE FOR DECEMBER MEETING. HE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE MEXICO TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES AND ATTEND THE DECEMBER MEETING IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPETITION AND FOCUS THEIR ENERGY CONSTRUCTIVELY. HE DOES NOT THINK THE MEXICAN INITIATIVE BY ITSELF WILL GET VERY FAR.

6. CLAPP AND JONES PRESSED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING MOVEMENT ON AYACUCHO SOON. PEREZ AGREED THAT VENEZUELA WOULD TAKE DIPLOMATIC ACTION IMMEDIATELY TO GET THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES TOGETHER IN MEXICO; THAT VENEZUELA WOULD THEN PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR DECEMBER MEETING PROGRAM; AND HE WOULD SEND AN EMISSARY TO MEXICO CITY NEXT WEEK TO PROPOSE THIS TO MEXICANS AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN AYACUCHO. HE INSTRUCTED FOREIGN MINISTER TO WORK ON A TELEGRAM TO THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES FOR MEXICO CITY MEETING AND ON A MEMO FOR VENEZUELAN DELEGATE TO MEXICAN MEETING, AND
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SUGGESTED THAT CLAPP AND JONES RETURN TO CARACAS AFTER SEEING GONZALEZ GALVEZ AND WORK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON THESE PREPARATIONS.

7. CUBA. PEREZ SAID GOV HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF COUNTRIES MEXICO IS INVITING TO AUGUST 21 MEETING. WE TOLD HIM WE WERE TOLD TUESDAY BY GONZALEZ GALVEZ THAT CUBA HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION AND WOULD ATTEND. PEREZ AND CONSALVI REACTED VERY STRONGLY. PEREZ SAID IT WAS "IMPRUDENT" OF MEXICO TO HAVE INVITED CUBA WITHOUT INFORMING OTHER ATTENDEES; THAT IT WAS UNEXPECTED IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT MEXICO HAD INTRODUCED ITS ORIGINAL RESOLUTION IN OAS IN WHICH CUBA DOES NOT PARTICIPATE; THAT IT WAS NOT AT ALL CONVENIENT BECAUSE IT COULD INSURE NON-PARTICIPATION OF SOUTHERN CONE; AND IT COULD DISTORT AND EVEN DERAIL THE DISCUSSION OF ARMS RESTRAINT. CONSALVI SAID CUBAN PARTICIPATION COULD CREATE A "DANGEROUS" SITUATION AND "COMPROMISE" VENEZUELA. MEXICANS, HE SAID, SHOULD HAVE TOLD GOV.

8. PEREZ INSTRUCTED CONSALVI TO SEEK OUT MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL AT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN SANTO DOMINGO NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THIS DEVELOPMENT AND ENTIRE MEXICAN INITIATIVE. IF ROEL NOT PRESENT IN SANTO DOMINGO, CONSALVI SHOULD GO TO MEXICO IMMEDIATELY

AFTER INAUGURATION. PEREZ NOTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY WOULD ALSO BE IN SANTO DOMINGO.

9. SITE OF NEXT CAT ROUND. WE TOLD PEREZ THAT MEXICO CITY HAD BEEN SUGGESTED PRIVATELY BY SOVIETS AS POSSIBLE VENUE FOR NEXT U.S.-SOVIET MEETING. PEREZ AND CONSALVI RECEIVED THIS AS ANOTHER SIGN OF POSSIBLE SOVIET MISCHIEF AND--ONLY PARTLY IN JEST--SUGGESTED THAT WE COUNTERPROPOSE COSTA RICA. WE
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ASSURED THEM THAT WE HAD MADE NO DECISIONS ON THIS QUESTION AND WOULD WAIT TO SEE HOW EVENTS UNFOLD IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

10. COMMENT. PEREZ IS BY ALL ACCOUNTS ANXIOUS TO PUSH FORWARD ON AYACUCHO, ALTHOUGH HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT, WITHOUT PRIDE OF AUTHORSHIP, ANYTHING THAT PROMOTED THE CAUSE OF REGIONAL RESTRAINT. HIS WILLINGNESS TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO MEXICO CITY AND TO WELCOME MEXICO AS A FULL PARTNER INTO AYACUCHO FOLD SEEMED TO SUBSTANTIATE THAT. IT WAS CLEAR ALSO FROM HIS DESCRIPTION OF MEETING WITH KUZNETSOV THAT HE WANTS TO KEEP CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH SOVIETS OPEN, BUT USE THIS PRIMARILY TO PUSH THEM. WE FEEL THIS MEETING SERVED TO FOCUS HIS THINKING ON PUSHING FOR IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS, AND HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSALVI ON WORKING WITH CLAPP AND JONES ON SPECIFIC MEASURES WERE FORCEFUL. EVEN BEFORE GIVING THESE INSTRUCTIONS, HE HAD ASKED SPECIFICALLY FOR FURTHER STAFF SUPPORT FROM US FOR THE MEXICAN MEETING, AS WELL AS THE DECEMBER MEETING.

11. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THIS MEETING ACCOMPLISHED OUR OBJECTIVES OF:
--ESTABLISHING BASIS AND PLANS FOR EARLY
VISIBLE MOVEMENT ON AYACUCHO;
--RECONFIRMING OUR SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE
AND WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE NEEDED;
--VENEZUELAN AGREEMENT TO CONSULT AND WORK CLOSELY TO
AVOID PROSPECT OF HARMFUL COMPETITION BETWEEN MEXICAN
AND VENEZUELAN EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY INASMUCH AS SOVIETS
MIGHT TRY TO EXPLOIT POLITICAL SITUATION. END COMMENT.
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